# The Cary Arboretum

of The New York Botanical Garden

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## Arboretum Gets Federal Grant for Vole Control Research

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has awarded a grant to the Cary Arboretum to enable its researchers to step up efforts to control damage by meadow voles and pine voles without use of controversial toxic chemicals.

The Federal agency has allocated a total of $65,000 jointly to the Arboretum and the State University of New York at Binghamton for the research work over a period of three years. The Arboretum will coordinate the research effort at the two institutions and will receive $30,000.

The Arboretum's wildlife biologist Mr. Jay McAninch, with staff and student assistance, will study soil and vegetation factors that affect vole populations and various types of cultural maintenance in fields and orchards that may discourage these extremely destructive rodents. Other aspects as the work will take place at Binghamton, directed by Dr. Dale Madison of S.U.N.Y.

New York State orchardists sustain millions of dollars of damage each year from depredations by voles. For the past two years the Arboretum, with the aid of modest grants from Dutchess and Ulster County orchardists, has been investigating natural, non-chemical methods of vole control. Preliminary results indicate that careful mowing programs and management of vegetation around trees can discourage the voles.

The conventional method of getting rid of voles has been to apply Endrin, but the toxic effect of the chemical has made its use highly controversial. Beginning in 1971, the State Department of Environmental Conservation has sharply limited use of Endrin by orchardists. A hearing is scheduled for September 13 by the DEC in New Paltz, N.Y., to consider an application of the Northeast Furit Council to resume Endrin applications this Fall.

Mr. McAninch, who will testify at the hearing, says that he acknowledges there is a temporary gap between research results and the urgent need of orchardists to

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Photo by Robin Parrow

*Even the Scarecrow is working hard to get ready for the Cary Arboretum's "Fall-For-All" Festival, October 13 and 14.*

## Arboretum Report to be in Chinese Journal

"Foliar Nectaries and Glandular Trichomes in Catalpa", a report written by Thomas Elias and Lydia Newcombe of the Arboretum staff, will be the first botanical paper by American authors ever published in a Chinese journal when it appears in Chinese this Autumn.

The report is a result of extensive research between 1975 and 1979 on the *Catalpa,* a species of trees that occur in the West Indies, North America and China. Also known as the "Cigar Tree", the *Catalpa* bears long, hanging pods and large showy flowers. As a member of the Bignoniaceae family, it was chosen for research because of its geographical distribution. Dr. Elias and Ms. Newcombe were especially interested in the Chinese variety and how closely related it is to the North American *Catalpa.*

The report, which was completed at the Arboretum in February, was received very well by Chinese botanists. It will appear in the *Acta Botanica Sinica,* the official journal of the Chinese Society.

Dr. Elias hopes that an exchange of co-operative research programs on plants such as the *Catalpa* will develop and flourish between the U.S. and the P.R.C.

Dr. Elias is a member of the Committee for scientific liaison with the P.R.C. and participated in an exchange program which allowed American botanists to visit China in May of 1978, and a reciprocal visit by the Chinese to the United States in May of 1979.

## Fall-For-All October 13 and 14

The Arboretum's first Fall-For-All last year was such a success that a bigger and even more exciting 1979 edition has been scheduled for Saturday and Sunday October 13 and 14.

The two-day autumnal celebration, (only one day in 1978) from noon to 5 p.m., will bring back some of last year's attractions: cider-making, hay-rides, morris dancing, pumpkin carving, woodcutting demonstrations, scarecrow-making contest, carriage drives and wine making, to name a few.

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# Discoveries of an Arboretum Volunteer

by Rose Marie Gillin

Often as I've wandered through the Smithsonian Institution or the National Geographic headquarters in Washington, D.C., I've wished that I could experience the excitement and satisfaction of being part of an important discovery. As a volunteer at the Cary Arboretum, I feel that I have that opportunity, and I'm not required to present credentials in science or engineering to share in the work of the Arboretum professional staff.

Being outside the scientific community, I had always felt excluded from the nerve center of professional life where experimentation and exploration take place, where important things happen. My personal and professional lives kept me on the periphery, on the outside looking in on the work being done in an area of life very

Photo by Robin Parow

*Violetta Putnam is an active volunteer responsible for recruiting other volunteers to staff the gift shop and give tours of the Arboretum.*

important to me – ecology and environmental improvement. I could be supportive of research, but I wanted to be closer to the action. When I became involved in the Arboretum's volunteer program, I found that problems and solutions became less abstract, and I made an important self-discovery: I could understand, and I could take part.

Many kinds of discovery, I've found, are possible for volunteers at the Cary Arboretum, The Plant Science Building itself is a Site of Discovery. It's been interesting to note the attitudes and feelings of visitors as they assemble for tours. Hesitation, wonder, fascination, uncertainty – interest. The "solar building" – is it altogether nonfiction? Threatening? A gimmick? Or, perhaps, A Solution, at least in part? Some already seem to know, but many are unsure. Rarely, however, do tours end without greater friendliness and optimistic conversation. For many of the visitors the experience has been one of discovery, and if you're lucky enough to have been their tour guide, you've had the pleasure of knowing that you've contributed.

The gift shop and greenhouse also are sites of discovery in their own way. A new concept discovered in a book, a new product, a new experience in aesthetic pleasure from a photograph, painting or scent. A seedling with origins in a far-away place. A leaf, blossom, or plant structure you've not seen before. The experiments in progress reflecting mankind's intelligence, concern, commitment. Discovery is more fulfilling when you can "show" these to guests of the Arboretum.

Challenge, I feel, may be the most exciting part of life, and discovery one of its greatest rewards. The interim stretches, however, need not be uninteresting. Traveling alongside the Arboretum's professional staff in their experienced and ordered quest for particles of knowledge and insight into the world of plants and animals is one of the privileges of the Arboretum volunteer. Sharing in the pursuit of the altogether sensible use of solar heat also suits my value system. And – who knows? I may be on hand when a big discovery is made that will be recorded and displayed to the world.

*Editor's Note: Rose Marie Gillin has worked in the publishing field 14 years on the staff of Sunset Magazine, Stanford University Press and Duke University Press. She also worked as Assistant to the Editor of the Journal of Asian Studies. A resident of Poughkeepsie, she has been an English teacher at Poughkeepsie High School for ten years and an Arboretum volunteer since July, 1978.*

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**Make your own discoveries as a Cary Arboretum Volunteer!!**

In the past year, 120 people from this area have given to the Arboretum one of the most precious gifts – the gift of their own time. In fact, 120 people have donated more than 4,000 hours of volunteer time. These donations have been essential to continuation of much of the work of the Arboretum including visitor tours, operation of the Gift Shop, care of plants in the greenhouse and many other vital jobs.

Photo by Robin Parow

*Wildlife volunteer Giacomo Ingenia (left) helps Mark Ellingwood dig posts for the outrigger deer fence.*

There always are openings for interested volunteers. And a green thumb is not essential. People are sought to help in the library, to give tours of the Plant Science Building and Greenhouse, to propagate and care for plants, to assist with typing and other clerical services, to answer the telephone, and to help at the many special events that take place at the Arboretum during the year.

In return, the Arboretum provides volunteers with special training for their jobs and with annual recognition for a job well done. There also are several very specific benefits for volunteers:

- Free subscription to the Cary Newsletter
- Free enrollment in one major Adult Education course each term, for volunteers meeting a minimum requirement for hours of service.
- Discounts at the Cary Plant and Gift Shop
- Invitations to staff events, such as the Christmas party and summer picnic.
- Reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses and free accident insurance when indicated by the nature of the volunteer assignment.

**If you are interested in offering your time and services, please call the Cary volunteer coordinators, Mrs. Violetta Putnam or Mrs. Marcia Davis at the Gifford House Education and Visitor Center – 677-5358.**

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# Dr. Howard S. Irwin Leaves Presidency of New York Botanical Garden

Donald J. Bruckmann, Chairman of the Board of Managers of The New York Botanical Garden, announced that Dr. Howard S. Irwin, who has been President of the Bronx institution since 1973, is giving up the position in order to embark on a sabbatical to pursue scientific research and writing projects. He will maintain his relationship with the Garden serving as consultant to the Board.

An executive committee of the staff, working with Chairman Bruckmann and the executive committee of the Board, will direct the operation of the Garden until a successor to Dr. Irwin is found.

"The Board regrets Dr. Irwin's departure," Mr. Bruckmann said. "Under his stewardship he brought the Garden to new eminence in the world of horticulture and plant science, and made it a great cultural institution in the city with the highest standards in the world. During his tenure the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory was restored and The Cary Arboretum in Millbrook, N. Y., was established. We look forward to his continuing participation in the Garden's future growth."

# George Bookman to Stock Exchange

George Bookman, who has been the Public Relations Director of the Arboretum and the Vice President for Public Affairs of the NYBG, resigned early this month to become a consultant to the New York Stock Exchange.

A resident of Millbrook since 1963, he and his wife Janet were among the first "Cary Volunteers" – together they researched three centuries of history of the Canoe Hills for an article published in 1972 by the Dutchess County Historical Society.

Because of his interest in the Millbrook area and the growth of the Cary Arboretum, Mr. Bookman in 1973 accepted a position to direct the public affairs of the New York Botanical Garden and the Arboretum.

Dividing his time between the two campuses, Mr. Bookman's public relations skills were instrumental in informing the public of the importance of the Arboretum during the last six years. For an interim period of two years he also acted as executive administrator of the Arboretum.

Mr. Bookman's work with the New York Stock Exchange returns him to an organization he served from 1962 to 1973 as Assistant Vice President for Public Information. His new position involves expanding and improving knowledge of the stock exchange's work in the field of self-regulation, particularly among members of the securities industry, government officials and the investing public. The Bookmans will continue to reside in Millbrook.

# Members of YCC Saw Cary Up Close

From clearing brush along the new fern glen pathway to creating "hairballs" by stuffing locks of human hair into net bags, members of the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) had first-hand experience at the Cary Arboretum this summer.

The 14 teenagers were selected by a computer from approximately 350 applicants to work six weeks at Cary. They came from areas throughout Dutchess County including Wassaic, Wappingers Falls, LaGrangeville and Stanfordville and had a busy schedule in rotating jobs throughout several Arboretum departments.

According to YCC Project Coordinator Steffen Kraehmer, the team of seven young men and seven young women worked on different parts of the Arboretum grounds including the fern glen under the direction of Cary Horticulturist Bob Hebb; at the Nursery Complex with Greenhouse Propagator Alex Pearl; in the Wildlife Lab with Ray Winchcombe, and on the grounds maintenance crew under the direction of John Bouton.

The YCC program was developed by the Federal government in 1969 for students age 15 to 18 to work in supervised, outdoor environments. This year's work sites in Dutchess County also included Stonykill and Bowdoin Park.

# People at the Arboretum

Roger "Reb" Powell, Custodian . . . Originally from Craigsville, Virginia, he earned his nick-name "Rebel" when he moved north to Rhode Island in 1948 . . . After 4 years in the U.S. Navy Reserves, he moved to Millbrook and pursued his favorite boyhood interest: horses. Reb's "special touch" for horses kept him in great demand in some of Millbrook's finest stables including Ward Acres Farm, Trotwood Farms, Lithgow Pony Farm, Blackwatch Farms and Bennett Stables. He is a 25-year member of the Professional Horseman's Association and used to own a breeding farm for Welsh and Arabian horses in Mabbettsville, New York.

*Roger "Reb" Powell*

Reb and his wife Pauline have three daughters, Grace, Paula and Tia. His hobbies include hunting and fishing and, as all Cary staff members know, bartending is among his sideline skills. His main responsibility, however, is maintaining the beautiful Federal-style Gifford House Visitor and Education Center on the Sharon Turnpike. If it weren't for Reb, classes at the Gifford House wouldn't go as smoothly as they do. "I enjoy setting up the classrooms and all the activity there", he says. To his co-workers at the Gifford House, Reb is more than a friend. If asked what makes him so special, they'd all agree it's his cotton-pickin' southern kindness.

## Arboretum Gets Federal Grant for Vole Control Research

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control voles. Thus he notes there may be areas where chemical controls are necessary on a limited, interim basis. However, Mr. McAninch says that, with the aid of the Federal funds, the research gap can be closed in a few years, and should produce more integrated vole control techniques.

Among the techniques to be used in the Arboretum research are the monitoring of vole behavior by attaching tiny radio transmitters around the necks of voles and following their movements for two years. The pine vole does its damage to apple trees by chewing on the root system underground, thus weakening the tree, drastically cutting fruit production and often killing the tree. It is estimated that in Dutchess-Ulster County alone, voles can reduce a $25 million apple crop by as much as one-third.

## Fall-For-All October 13 and 14

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In tune with the times, there will also be one pathway at the outdoor festival entirely devoted to displaying methods of energy conservation. These will include operation of wood stoves and furnaces, solar heating, methods of home insulation including demonstration of window and door shutters, and woodlot management.

A cord of firewood, delivered to the winner's home, will be raffled off during the festival.

In addition, Fall-For-All will offer fresh-made cider, doughnuts, picnic-type foods, and special bargains in the Arboretum's Gift and Plant Shop. The day will also include free tours of the solar-heated Plant Science Building.

Fall-For-All takes place on the grounds of the Gifford House Education and Visitor Center, Sharon Turnpike, Millbrook. Admission for the general public is $1.50 for adults, 75 cents for children, students and senior citizens. Members of Friends of the Cary Arboretum purchasing one adult admission are entitled to one free admission ticket.

# Around the Arboretum

## Arboretum Receives State Grant

New York State's Appropriate Technology Small Grants Program has recently awarded the Cary Arboretum $9,819 to pursue research on the insulating panels and shutters used in the solar-heated Plant Science Building.

According to Dan Brown, Capital Projects Manager, the funding will be used to demonstrate that when used effectively, these easy-to-operate panels and shutters will have short payback periods of between one and two years due to their efficiency and relatively low cost. The insulators made of wood, styrofoam and vinyl, are used to insulate the sky-lights, windows, and sliding glass doors of the Plant Science Building. They will be studied and adapted for use in average homes, says Mr. Brown, who intends to set up workshops and develop

Photo by Robin Parow

*"Panelist" Dan Brown shows use of sliding insulator that he plans to adapt for home use.*

instruction packets which will be available to homeowners through the Arboretum.

The Appropriate Technology Small Grants Program was developed to support small-scale projects, especially those emphasizing renewable resources such as solar energy, wind and hydroelectric power.

## Fern Glen Opening October 7

An invitation is extended to all Friends of the Arboretum to attend a ceremony to open officially the Arboretum's Fern Glen – a magnificent bowl-shaped area near the bridge on Tea House Road.

According to Cary Horticulturist Bob Hebb, actual construction of the Fern Glen began late last Fall. However, for more than two years volunteers from the American Fern Society headed by Mrs. Dorothy Linde and under the guidance of the NYBG's fern specialist Dr. John Mickel, have been raising a comprehensive collection of hardy ferns from around the world for planting in the Glen. The site now contains diverse habitats such as moist, shady, wooded slopes, a bog, a limestone area, and sections of impressive mature hemlock forest.

A public service grant from I.B.M. and a generous gift from a private source, along with the enthusiastic work of the Cary staff and young people from YCC (see separate story), have made construction of the Glen possible.

The opening ceremony is scheduled for Sunday, October 7 at 2 p.m., followed by conducted tours of the Glen until 4:30 pm.

## Urban Forestry Contract

A contract between the Cary Arboretum and the U.S. Forest Service will go into effect this month to develop an urban forestry plan for the small city of Milford, Pennsylvania.

The tree plan, which will be along the lines of a program developed last year for the city of Peekskill, New York, as part of the Arboretum's urban forestry program, is under the supervision of Dr. Thomas S. Elias, Assistant Director of the Arboretum.

The plan for Milford, Pennsylvania involves the estate of former Governor Gifford Pinchot who was the founder of the U.S. Forest Service. The estate, now under the auspices of the Forest Service, will serve as a training ground for foresters and members of the Young Adult Conservation Corps (YACC) who will spend six months gathering data which will later be coordinated with other information to develop a manual/handbook on how to use trees in cities, towns and villages of the Northeast.

This "how to" manual will serve as a tool for planning and planting trees, analyzing present tree conditions, taking soil samples, and selecting trees for urban environments.

## Horticultural Pilgrimage to Boston October 9-11

A three-day horticultural holiday sponsored by the New York Botanical Garden will include tours of the Arnold Arboretum, Harvard Museum and the Hunnewell Estate, says Bob Hebb, Cary Horticulturist and tour leader. Members of the Arboretum are invited to participate at a special reduced price.

The group will depart from the NYBG on the morning of October 9th and will arrive at Framingham's Sheraton Hotel at noon. The day will be spent at the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University.

The next day's activities will include tours of the Mt. Auburn Cemetery, America's first garden cemetery, and the glass flowers collection at the Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology. There will be an afternoon visit to the Hunnewell Estate, well known for its topiary, hybrid Rhododendrons, mature Pinetum collection, and the oldest Conifer collection in the United States.

The price for the tour is $85 for non-members and $75 for NYBG/Cary Arboretum members. Meals and hotel accommodations made through the NYBG are an additional $150 per person or arrangements can be made separately at the participant's own expense. Reservations are limited. For more information, please call (914) 677-5343.

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of
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